

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAHORE 00594 201025Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 000615

P R 200810Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9970

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS LAHORE 0594

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: BHUTTO ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: DURING PRESS CONFERENCE IN LAHORE APRIL 19, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO DISCUSSED ECONOMY, STATE OF EMERGENCY, BALUCH-ISTAN, PUNJAB POLITICS, CHANGE IN CHIEF OF AIR FORCE, FORTH-COMING FEDERAL CABINET CHANGES, AND FREEDOM OF PRESS. HIS REMARKS ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE SUBJECTS OF SEPTELS. END SUMMARY

1. ON APRIL 19, FOLLOWING THREE-DAY HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ECONOMIC SITUATION, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ADDRESSED WIDE-RANGING PRESS CONFERENCE LASTING 75 MINUTES. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS REMARKS ARE OUTLINED BELOW, EXCEPT FOR STATEMENT CONCERNING RECONSTITUTION OF HAMOODUR RAHMAN WAR COMMISSION, WHICH IS BEING REPORTED IN SEPTEL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HIS REMARKS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION ARE INCLUDED IN SEPTEL ON ECONOMIC SITUATION.

2. STATE OF EMERGENCY -- ASKED IF CONTINUING PROCESS OF RECONCILITATION WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH MADE IT POSSIBLE TO LIFT STATE OF EMERGENCY, PRIME MINISTER SAID ISSUE WAS UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW BY GOP, BUT THAT HE WOULD

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LAHORE 00594 201025Z

NOT LIKE TO MAKE "PREMATURE COMMITMENT". HE SAID HE HAD NO

PERSONAL STAKE IN CONTINUING EMERGENCY AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO LIFT IT, BUT MAINTAINED THAT THERE ARE "CERTAIN OBJECTIVES AND REASONS FOR WHICH THE EMERGENCY IS BEING MAINTAINED."

3. BALUCHISTAN -- BHUTTO SAID HE HOPED HIS RECENT DECLARATION ON BALUCHISTAN WOULD BE ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT "OTHER SIDE" WOULD RECIPROCATE. HE ASSERTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD INHERITED BALUCHISTAN PROBLEM FROM PREVIOUS REGIMES AND ARGUED THAT HE HAD TAKEN FIRST STEPS TOWARD "PERMANENT SOLUTION." HE RECALLED THAT PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN AND NWFP WERE FORMED BY NAP DESPITE LACK OF ASSEMBLY MAJORITIES, THAT NAP CHOICE OF GOVERNORS HAD BEEN APPROVED AND THAT DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS HAD BEEN DOUBLED. SOMEHOW THESE POLITICAL STEPS HAD "GONE WRONG," AND AS RESULT, "CERTAIN ACTION HAD TO BE TAKEN." HE ASKED PEOPLE TO APPRECIATE DELICATE AND COMPLEX QUESTION, AND OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS NO "INSTANT SOLUTION" TO BALUCHISTAN PROBLEM. HE ASSERTED THAT DETAINING SOME LEADERS, RELEASING THEM, AND ARRESTING THEM AGAIN WAS "NO SOLUTION" THAT PREVIOUS REGIMES HAD FOLLOWED, AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT "DID NOT WANT TO PLAY THAT GAME." ASKED IF BALUCHISTAN LEADERS BIZENJO, MANGAL AND MARRI OF NAP WOULD BE RELEASED OR TRIED, BHUTTO SAID HE WOULD NOT COMMENT BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO PREJUDICE THEIR CASE, BUT NOTED THAT TERMS OF AMNESTY IN RECENT DECLARATION COVERED ONLY SUCH PERSONS AS HAD BEEN DETAINED IN BALUCHISTAN. HE UNDERLINED THAT THREE NAP LEADERS WERE NOT IN THAT CATEGORY. HE ARGUED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO BALUCHISTAN PROBLEM WAS "PROGRESSIVE" AND DESIGNED TO BREAK "AGE-OLD SHACKLES OF FEUDALISM," WHICH HE BELIEVED HAD SATISFIED PEOPLE. HOWEVER, RELEASE OF THREE NAP LEADERS WOULD NOT ACHIEVE LASTING SOLUTION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, BHUTTO SAID HE HAD NOT "INDULGED" IN DIALOGUE WITH NAP, BUT WAS WATCHING FOR ITS REACTION TO DECLARATION.

4. PUNJAB POLITICS -- BHUTTO DECLARED THAT PRESENT PUNJAB GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN LEGALLY CONSTITUTED, AND SAID CHIEF MINISTER RAMAY HAD HIS FULL SUPPORT. HE SAID CHANGE IN PUNJAB GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN MADE FOR POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN BEST INTERESTS OF COUNTRY, AND SAW NO REASON FOR "UNNECESSARY COMMO-TION." HE WAS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT HIS FRIENDS (FORMER CM KHAR AND RAMAY) HAD RESOLVED THEIR DIFFERENCES FOLLOWING HIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LAHORE 00594 201025Z

DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. (NOTE: BOTH RAMAY AND KHAR SAT BEHIND BHUTTO DURING PRESS CONFERENCE.) PRIME MINISTER DEPLORED FACTIONAL QUARRELS IN PUNJAB, AND CALLED FOR END TO FACTIONS AND GROUPINGS, SAYING THERE WAS NO SCOPE FOR "ANYBODY BEING ANYBODY'S MAN." BHUTTO STRESSED THAT KHAR WAS CLOSE FRIEND, BUT SAID CHANGE HAD BEEN MADE IN NATIONAL INTEREST. HE INDICATED THAT REAL REASON FOR CHANGE WAS THAT "SOME MINISTERS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN KHAR CABINET." ASKED IF KHAR

WOULD BE GIVEN ANOTHER POSITION, PRIME MINISTER SAID QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED. HE SAID HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH RECENT MUD SLINGING, BUT ARGUED THAT HE WAS NOT PROPER AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE SAID IN REGARD TO ALLEGATIONS BY CERTAIN MPA'S ABOUT KHAR, THAT "CHAPTER WAS CLOSED." EXCLUSIVE STORY IN LOCAL PAPER APRIL 20 REPORTED THAT BHUTTO HAD REMOVED PUNJAB IRRIGATION MINISTER WATTOO FROM PRESIDENCY OF PUNJAB PPP, AND HAD APPOINTED SYED NASIR ALI SHAH RIZVI, MNA FROM MULTAN, IN HIS STEAD.

5. AIR FORCE -- BHUTTO SAID HE HAD MADE CHANGE IN CHIEF OF STAFF OF AIR FORCE IN BEST INTERESTS OF COUNTRY. HE ALLUDED TO DIFFERENCES IN OPINION BETWEEN HIM AND FORMER PAF CHIEF CHAUDHRY WHICH HAD NECESSITATED CHANGE.

6. FEDERAL CABINET -- PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD PLANNED TO MAKE CHANGES IN CABINET DURING THIRD WEEK OF APRIL, BUT THAT EXTENSION NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION HAD CAUSED HIM TO POSTPONE MOVE. HE EXPECTED TO MAKE CHANGES SHORTLY AFTER PRESENT SESSION IS OVER. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE SAID APPOINTMENT OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES NEED NOT BE SYNCHRONIZED WITH CABINET CHANGES.

7. PRESS -- BHUTTO EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN NEWSMAN INQUIRED WHETHER GOP INTENDED TO RELAX CONTROLS ON PRESS AFTER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND EFFECTS OF 1971 WAR HAD DISSIPATED. CALLING QUESTION "FASCINATING," HE DECLARED THAT THERE WAS COMPLETE FREEDOM OF PRESS IN PAKISTAN. HE ASSERTED THAT THOSE WHO FELT THERE WAS NOT SUCH FREEDOM HAD SOMETHING WRONG WITH THEIR FEELINGS OR CONSCIENCES. HE ARGUED THAT WHAT HAD APPEARED IN PRESS DURING PAST 10 OR 12 DAYS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT FREEDOM OF PRESS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LAHORE 00594 201025Z

8. EMBASSY ISLAMABAD MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTERS REMARKS.
GRIFFIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, BALUCHISTAN, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAHORE00594
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-0016
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740427/aaaaaxmg.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS SUMMARY: DURING PRESS CONFERENCE IN LAHORE APRIL 19, PRIME
TAGS: PINT, PK, (BHUTTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005